

(1) The destruction of records that have served their statutory, fiscal, or administrative uses and no longer have sufficient value to justify further retention. Procedures for obtaining disposal authorizations are prescribed in § 1228.30;

(2) The removal to a records storage facility of records not eligible for immediate destruction or other disposition but which are no longer needed in office space. These records are maintained by the records storage facility until they are eligible for final disposition action;

(3) The retention of the minimum volume of current records in office space consistent with effective and efficient operations; and

(4) The identification of records of permanent value in accordance with § 1228.28, and the establishment of cut-off periods and dates when such records will be transferred to the legal custody of NARA.

[45 FR 5705, Jan. 24, 1980. Redesignated at 50 FR 15723, Apr. 19, 1985, as amended at 64 FR 67665, Dec. 2, 1999]

#### § 1228.26 Request for records disposition authority.

(a) *Submission.* Requests for records disposition authority shall be initiated by Federal agencies by submitting Standard Form 115, Request for Records Disposition Authority, to NARA (NWML). An SF 115 is used for requesting authority to schedule (or establish the disposition for) permanent and temporary records, either on a recurring or one-time basis.

(1) New Federal agencies shall apply General Records Schedules to eligible records and shall submit to NARA SF 115s covering all remaining records within 2 years of their establishment.

(2) Agencies shall submit to NARA schedules for the records of new programs and of programs that are reorganized or otherwise changed in a way that results in the creation of new or different records within 1 year of the implementation of the change.

(b) *Certification.* The signature of the authorized agency representative on the SF 115 shall constitute certification that the records recommended for disposal do not or will not have sufficient administrative, legal, or fiscal

value to the agency to warrant retention beyond the expiration of the specified period and that records described as having permanent value will be transferred to the National Archives upon expiration of the stated period.

(c) *Disapproval of requests for disposition authority.* Requests for records disposition authority may be returned to the agency if the SF 115 is improperly prepared. The agency shall make the necessary corrections and resubmit the form to NARA (NWML). NARA may disapprove the disposition request for an item if, after appraisal of the records, NARA determines that the proposed disposition is not consistent with the value of the records. In such cases, NARA will notify the agency in writing.

[55 FR 27429, July 2, 1990; 55 FR 28136, July 9, 1990, as amended at 63 FR 35829, July 1, 1998]

#### § 1228.28 Scheduling permanent records.

(a) *Initiation.* Federal agencies propose permanent retention of records in accordance with guidelines contained in the NARA records management handbook, Disposition of Federal Records (<http://www.nara.gov/records/pubs/>).

(b) *Requirements.* Each item proposed for permanent retention on an SF 115 shall include the following:

(1) Records series title used by agency personnel to identify the records;

(2) Complete description of the records including physical type and information contents;

(3) Inclusive dates;

(4) An arrangement statement;

(5) Statement of restrictions on access which NARA should impose in conformity with the Freedom of Information Act if the records are proposed for immediate transfer;

(6) An estimate of the volume of records accumulated annually if the records are current and continuing;

(7) The total volume to date; and

(8) Disposition instructions, developed using the following guidelines:

(i) If the records series or system is current and continuing, the SF 115 will include a disposition instruction specifying the period of time after which the records will be transferred to the National Archives, normally within 30

years for paper records, 5-10 years for audiovisual or microform records, and as soon as the records become inactive or the agency cannot meet the maintenance requirements found in § 1228.270 of this part for electronic records.

(ii) If the records series or system is nonrecurring, i.e., no additional records will be created or acquired, the agency may propose either immediate or future transfer to the National Archives.

(c) *Determination.* NARA will determine whether or not records are of permanent value and when the transfer of the permanent records will take place.

(1) If NARA determines that records are not permanent, it will notify the agency and negotiate an appropriate disposition. The disposition instruction on the SF 115 will be modified prior to NARA approval.

(2) If NARA determines that records are permanent, but that the transfer instructions are not appropriate, it will negotiate appropriate transfer terms with the agency. The disposition instruction on the SF 115 will be modified prior to NARA approval.

[55 FR 27429, July 2, 1990; 55 FR 31982, Aug. 6, 1990, as amended at 66 FR 27027, May 16, 2001]

#### § 1228.30 Scheduling temporary records.

(a) *Initiation.* Federal agencies request authority to dispose of records, either immediately or on a recurring basis. Requests for immediate disposal are limited to records already in existence which no longer accumulate. For recurring records, approved schedules provide continuing authority to destroy the records. The retention periods approved by NARA are mandatory, and the agency shall dispose of the records after expiration of the retention period, except as provided in § 1228.54.

(b) *Requirements.* Each item on an SF 115 proposed for eventual destruction shall include the following:

(1) Records series title used by agency personnel to identify the records;

(2) Description of the records including physical type and informational content;

(3) If the records are contained in a Privacy Act system of records, a citation to the agency's alpha-numeric or

numeric code designation for the system of records. If the system of records was added or deleted since the publication of the current Office of the Federal Register compilation of Privacy Act Issuances, the agency shall also cite the date and page of the FEDERAL REGISTER on which the new system notice appears or the deleted system is announced.

(4) Disposition instructions, developed using the following guidelines:

(i) If the records series or system is current and continuing, the SF 115 will include a disposition instruction specifying the period of time after which the records will be destroyed.

(ii) If the records series or system is nonrecurring, i.e., no additional records will be created or acquired, the agency may propose either immediate destruction or destruction on a future date.

(c) *Determination.* NARA may determine that records proposed as temporary merit permanent retention and transfer to the National Archives. In such cases, NARA arranges with the agency to change the disposition instruction prior to approval of the SF 115.

(d) *General Accounting Office concurrence.* Each Federal agency shall obtain the approval of the Comptroller General for the disposal of program records less than 3 years old and for certain classes of records relating to claims and demands by or against the Government, and to accounts in which the Government is concerned in accordance with the GAO "Policy and Procedures Manual for Guidance of Federal Agencies," title 8—Records Management (44 U.S.C. 3309). This approval must be obtained before the approval of the disposal request by NARA, but the request may be submitted concurrently to GAO and NARA.

(e) *Withdrawn items.* Agencies may request that items listed on the SF 115 be withdrawn in order to aid in NARA's processing (appraisal) of the remaining items on the schedule.

(1) If, during the course of the appraisal process, NARA determines that records described by an item(s) on the proposed schedule do not exist or are not arranged as stated on the SF 115,